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Toxicology expert discusses health effects of arsenic

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NEWS RELEASE

Aug.30, 2002

Contact: Celine Wishcamper, UM Center for Environmental Health Sciences, 243-4039.

TOXICOLOGY EXPERT DISCUSSES HEALTH EFFECTS OF ARSENIC

MISSOULA --

Toxicology expert David Eaton will present a seminar titled "Arsenic in Public Health" from 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, in Urey Lecture Hall at The University of Montana. The seminar is free and open to the public.

Eaton, a professor of environmental health at the University of Washington in Seattle, received his doctorate in pharmacology in 1978 from the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan. He is associate dean for research at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine and director of the university's Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health. Eaton also serves as president of the Society of Toxicology, a 5,200-member organization of professionals who practice toxicology in the United States and abroad.

"Long-term exposure to arsenic in drinking water has been linked to cancer and other health effects, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes," said Associate Professor Howard Beall of UM's Center for Environmental Health. "These health concerns led the Environmental Protection Agency to lower the maximum allowable level of arsenic in drinking water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. The concern is greatest for people who live in the western United States, where more water systems exceed 10 parts per billion than in

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any other region of the country."

The seminar is sponsored by UM's School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences.

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